



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

MICHAEL J. SMITH et al.

Group Art Unit: 2876

Examiner: S. Paik

Serial No.: 09/825,912

Filed: April 4, 2001

For: CENTRALIZED ELECTRONIC SAFE AND ACCOUNTING
CONTROL SYSTEM

Attorney Docket No.: FIRE 0111 PUS

REPLY BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
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Sir:

This is reply brief in response to the Examiner's Answer mailed on June 10, 2004.

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SSP
9/7/04
Appellants maintain the arguments stated in the appeal brief. Appellants further clarify some of these arguments below.

Brooks, Jr. still fails to suggest the claimed safe including a control system that includes a processor programmed to control operation of the electronic lock for the safe as well as operate as a central system controller when connected to at least one other remote safe. Appellants contend that store host computer 43 is not part of a safe, and more particularly is

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